

# Major Work Stoppages

## Technical Note

Major work stoppages are those involving 1,000 workers or more and lasting a full shift or longer, and include worker-initiated strikes, as well as lockouts by employers. A strike is defined as a temporary stoppage of work by a group of workers (not necessarily members of a union) to express a grievance or enforce a demand. A lockout is a temporary withholding or denial of employment during a labor dispute to enforce terms of employment upon a group of employees. Because of the complexity of disputes, the Bureau does not attempt to distinguish between strikes and lockouts in its statistics; both are included in the term "work stoppages."

Data for the number of workers involved and days of idleness include all workers made idle for one shift or longer in establishments directly involved in a stoppage. They do not account for secondary idleness as a result of material or service shortages. The number of workers idled in any stoppage represents the maximum number of workers idled during the reference period for that stoppage.

In the monthly tables, days idle during the reference period for any one stoppage is calculated by adding the number of days lost by each affected worker during the period from the beginning date through the ending date of the stoppage. In addition, days idle is shown as a total for

all stoppages in effect during the month. In the historical tables, cumulative figures for the days of idleness are shown for various reference periods. In addition, days idle is shown as a percent of estimated working time for all stoppages that occurred during the reference period. Total days idle is the sum of the days idle for all stoppages in effect during the reference period. Estimated working time is computed by multiplying total employment during the reference period by the number of days typically worked by most employees during that period. (Total employment excludes private households, forestry, and fishery employees, and is taken from *Employment and Earnings* published by the Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics.) The percent of estimated working time lost is calculated by dividing the total days of idleness for all stoppages occurring during the reference period by the estimated working time for all employees in the economy during that period.

### Additional information

For more detailed data, contact the Division of Compensation Data Analysis and Planning, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, DC 20212-0001. Telephone: (202) 606-6282.

Table D-1. Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, 1947-98<sup>1</sup>

Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved		Days idle	
	Beginning in period	In effect during period	Beginning in period (thousands)	In effect during period (thousands)	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time <sup>2</sup>
1947 .....	270	-	1,629	-	25,720	( <sup>3</sup> )
1948 .....	245	-	1,435	-	26,127	0.22
1949 .....	262	-	2,537	-	43,420	.38
1950 .....	424	-	1,698	-	30,390	.26
1951 .....	415	-	1,462	-	15,070	.12
1952 .....	470	-	2,746	-	48,820	.38
1953 .....	437	-	1,623	-	18,130	.14
1954 .....	265	-	1,075	-	16,630	.13
1955 .....	363	-	2,055	-	21,180	.16
1956 .....	287	-	1,370	-	26,840	.20
1957 .....	279	-	887	-	10,340	.07
1958 .....	332	-	1,587	-	17,900	.13
1959 .....	245	-	1,381	-	60,850	.43
1960 .....	222	-	896	-	13,260	.09
1961 .....	195	-	1,031	-	10,140	.07
1962 .....	211	-	793	-	11,760	.08
1963 .....	181	-	512	-	10,020	.07
1964 .....	246	-	1,183	-	16,220	.11
1965 .....	268	-	999	-	15,140	.10
1966 .....	321	-	1,300	-	16,000	.10
1967 .....	381	-	2,192	-	31,320	.18
1968 .....	392	-	1,855	-	35,367	.20
1969 .....	412	-	1,576	-	29,397	.16
1970 .....	381	-	2,468	-	52,761	.29
1971 .....	298	-	2,516	-	35,538	.19
1972 .....	250	-	975	-	16,764	.09
1973 .....	317	-	1,400	-	16,260	.08
1974 .....	424	-	1,796	-	31,809	.16
1975 .....	235	-	965	-	17,563	.09
1976 .....	231	-	1,519	-	23,962	.12
1977 .....	298	-	1,212	-	21,258	.10
1978 .....	219	-	1,006	-	23,774	.11
1979 .....	235	-	1,021	-	20,409	.09
1980 .....	187	-	795	-	20,844	.09
1981 .....	145	-	729	-	16,908	.07
1982 .....	96	-	656	-	9,061	.04
1983 .....	81	-	909	-	17,461	.08
1984 .....	62	-	376	-	8,499	.04
1985 .....	54	-	324	-	7,079	.03
1986 .....	69	-	533	-	11,861	.05
1987 .....	46	-	174	-	4,481	.02
1988 .....	40	-	118	-	4,381	.02
1989 .....	51	-	452	-	16,996	.07
1990 .....	44	-	185	-	5,926	.02
1991 .....	40	-	392	-	4,584	.02
1992 .....	35	-	364	-	3,989	.01
1993 .....	35	-	182	-	3,981	.01
1994 .....	45	-	322	-	5,021	.02
1995 .....	31	-	192	-	5,771	.02
1996 .....	37	-	273	-	4,889	.02
1997 .....	29	-	339	-	4,497	.01
1997 Through April .....	8	13	62.8	74.8	1,091.3	.01
1998 Through April <sup>P</sup> .....	5	5	19.8	20.9	76.1	( <sup>4</sup> )

<sup>1</sup> The number of stoppages and workers relate to stoppages that began in the year. Days of idleness include all stoppages in effect. Workers are counted more than once if they are involved in more than one stoppage during the year.

<sup>2</sup> Agricultural and government employees are included in the total

employed and total working time; private households, forestry, and fishery employees are excluded.

<sup>3</sup> Data not available.

<sup>4</sup> Less than .005.

<sup>P</sup> = preliminary.

**Table D-2. Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, February 1998<sup>p</sup>**

Organizations involved and location <sup>1</sup>	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers <sup>2</sup>	Days of idleness during February
Honeywell, Inc. Minneapolis, MN, area Teamsters	2/1/98	2/15/98	2,600	26,000
Trane Co. Lexington, KY Automobile Workers	2/23/98		1,100	5,500
Kaiser Permanente Northern California California Nurses Association	2/24/98	2/24/98	7,100	7,100
Stoppages beginning in February   3			10,800	
Stoppages in effect in February   3			10,800	38,600

<sup>1</sup> Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as independent (Ind.).

<sup>2</sup> The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.  
p=preliminary.

**Table D-3. Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, March 1998<sup>p</sup>**

Organizations involved and location	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers <sup>2</sup>	Days of idleness during March
Trane Co. Lexington, KY Automobile Workers	2/23/98	3/20/98	1,100	16,500
Community College of Philadelphia Philadelphia, PA American Federation of Teachers	3/10/98	3/16/98	1,000	5,000
Stoppages beginning in March   1			1,000	
Stoppages in effect in March   2			2,100	21,500

<sup>1</sup> Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as independent (Ind.).

<sup>2</sup> The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.  
p=preliminary.

**Table D-4. Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, April 1998**

Organizations involved and location <sup>1</sup>	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers	Days of idleness during April
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At the time of publication, there were no known work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers.

**Table D-3. Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, September 1997<sup>p</sup>**

Organizations involved and location <sup>1</sup>	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers <sup>2</sup>	Days of idleness during September
Wheeling Pittsburgh Steel Corp. Contractors Association St. Louis, MO, area Painters	9/2/97	9/18/97	2,200	28,600
Kaiser Permanente Oregon and Southwest Washington Service Employees	9/2/97		2,000	42,000
Bay Area Rapid Transit San Francisco, CA, area Amalgamated Transit Union; State, County and Municipal Employees; and Service Employees	9/7/97	9/13/97	2,600	13,000
	9/15/97	9/16/97	1,000	2,000
Vickers Inc. Omaha, NE Paperworkers				
Stoppages beginning in September 4			7,800	
Stoppages in effect in September 4			7,800	85,600

<sup>1</sup> Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as independent (Ind.).

<sup>2</sup> The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.  
p = preliminary.

**Table D-4. Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, October 1997<sup>p</sup>**

Organizations involved and location <sup>1</sup>	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers <sup>2</sup>	Days of idleness during October
Kaiser Permanente Oregon and Southwest Washington Service Employees	9/2/97	10/4/97	2,000	6,000
CF & I Steel Company Pueblo, CO Steelworkers	10/2/97		1,000	20,000
Stoppages beginning in October 1			1,000	
Stoppages in effect in October 2			3,000	26,000

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<sup>2</sup> The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.  
p = preliminary.